

# Parks and Open Space

The Junction community's desire for parks, open space, bicycle and pedestrian trails, recreation facilities, and pedestrian-friendly environments within the Junction commercial center and overall planning area has been consistently expressed and supported throughout Phase I and Phase II planning and outreach processes. Although initially perceived as fully developed with few open spaces/parks and limited opportunities for new open spaces or trails, the Junction planning area offers an array of options for additional open space. Re-developed existing street and alley rights-of-way create a system of interwoven pedestrian streets and trails that link existing and proposed open spaces/parks, schools, the Junction commercial center and other neighborhoods in West Seattle. Simply providing street trees, benches, drinking fountains and other pedestrian comforts and safety features within the commercial center and along the interwoven "lattice" of pedestrian ways, contributes to the plan,,

Key discoveries during the Phase II planning process, made during driving and walking tours of the Junction planning area include:

- Wavy topography of north-south oriented ridges and valleys that give existing streets and alleys interesting view aspects - east to the City skyline and/or west to Puget Sound, or a protected, intimate-scale character;
- Vacant or underused privately owned land;
- Publicly-owned electrical substations scheduled to become surplus in the near future
- Streets with views, aesthetic character and/or wide planting strips and medians that link together existing and/or proposed open space, parks, and school grounds, and/or connect to the commercial center and/or other neighborhoods in West Seattle,

Thus the overriding concept and planning framework of the Parks and Open Space section of the Neighborhood Plan is the "Open Space Lattice," whose underpinnings are the existing street/alley grid system parks, open spaces, school grounds, substations, and vacant lands discovered during the planning process. The Plan's foundation, of goals and policies outline the parks, open space and pedestrian-oriented improvements that make up the "Open Space Lattice",

Seven "Lattice" projects emerged as top priorities during the planning and community outreach process (not listed in order of preference):

- Pedestrian Amenities in the Junction and along the Open Space Lattice - Proposal: Provide pedestrian amenities such as street trees, planters, benches, and drinking fountains,
- Junction Recreation and Meeting Hall - Proposal: Obtain the existing Seattle City Light Substation (building and site), NW corner of California Avenue SW and SW Dakota Street, for use as a community recreation and meeting facility. The substation will be surplus in 2001. All electrical equipment has been removed, but the building is still in use. The lot area is one-third acre (14,685 square feet). Although the building may need substantial interior remodeling to accommodate community functions, the building is unique and has architectural character,

- **New Park at Erskine and 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue** - Proposal: Purchase the abandoned service station site and Seattle City Light Dawson Substation, both located on 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW at Erskine Way SW. The 5,760 square foot substation will be surplus in 2003. The privately owned service station site is 6,759 square feet and is a triangular island. The site may have some history of local interest.
- **Junction Way East and Junction Way West:** To improve the alleys immediately to the east and west of California Avenue for pedestrian and bicycle use, while maintaining their use for other vehicles. The alley east of California Avenue would be enhanced from Fauntleroy north to Charleston Street. The west alley would be enhanced as a link from Admiral through the Junction down to Morgan Junction, linking the three business districts.
- **55th Avenue Overlook:** Enhance existing street-end viewpoint on 55<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, south of SW Genesee Street for pedestrian use by adding and overlook, benches, view scopes, native habitat vegetation and privacy plantings for neighbors. The street end overlooks Mee Kwa Mooks Park with a 180 degree view of Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains,
- **Community P-patch:** Locate and/or obtain land for a community p-patch garden in or near the Junction neighborhood. One alternative would be to purchase privately-owned, undeveloped lots. Lots identified during committee field trips include the NE corner of 48<sup>th</sup> and Alaska, and a vacant lot south of Alaska House at 42<sup>nd</sup> and Alaska. Other alternatives are to develop existing city-owned land at the Lincoln Park annex, or to use other unused public land on parks, street rights-of-way or schools,
- **West Seattle Trek:** Create a pedestrian and bicycle friendly circuit around the West Seattle Peninsula that would connect Alki Beach, Camp Long, Lincoln Park and other local parks and points of interest. This proposal should be viewed community-wide, and participation should include all West Seattle neighborhoods.

**Note:** A vital part of considering and implementing these projects must be regard for how the site or amenity will be maintained.

## **New Opportunities**

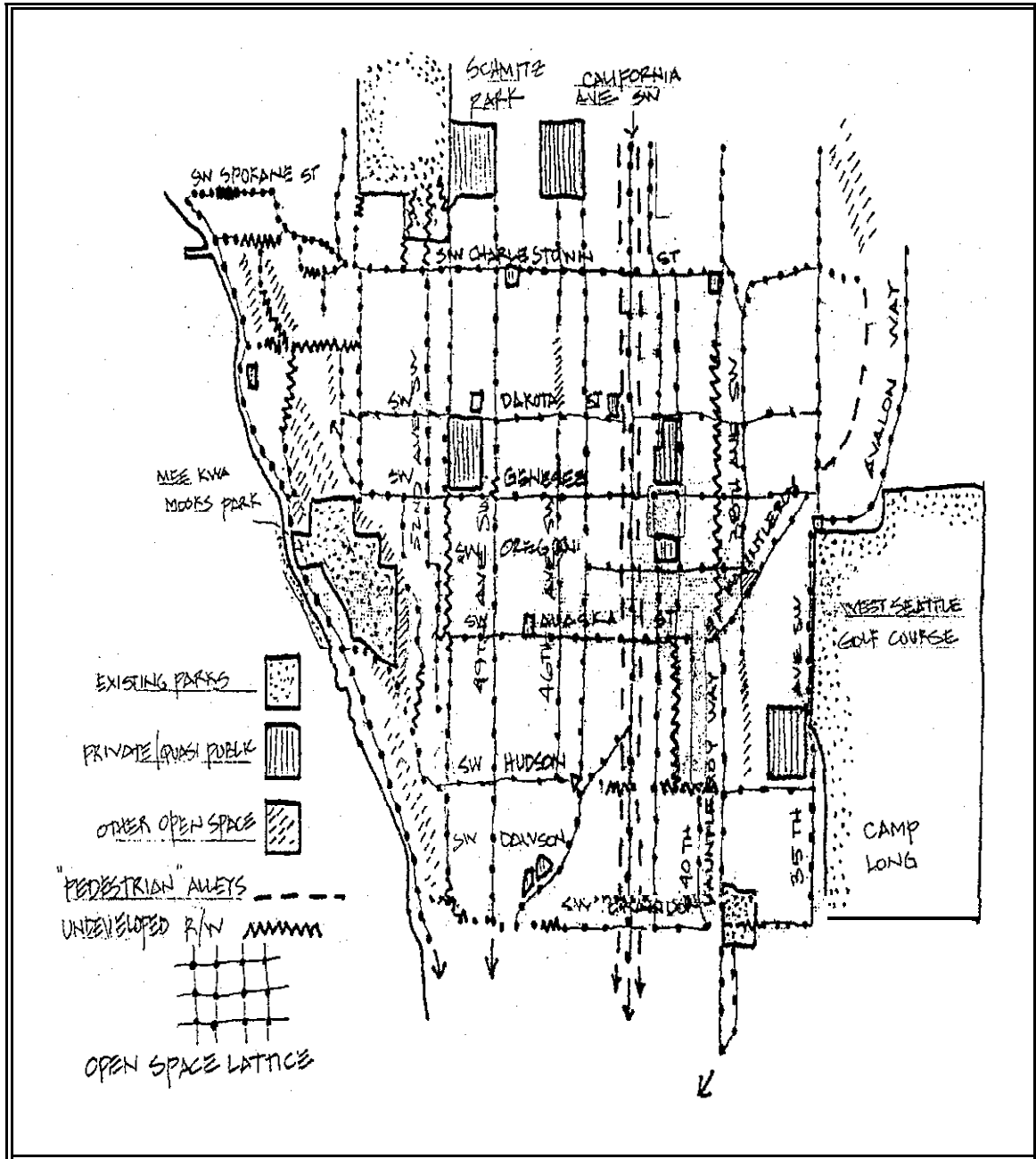
**Goal:** Create and develop opportunities for public open space and pedestrian/bicycle trails. Consider future open space acquisition and land trades to provide additional "Breathing Room" in the West Seattle Junction planning area.

**Policy:** Strive to reach 1994 Seattle Comprehensive Plan and 1993 Department of Parks and Recreation Comprehensive plan goals for a hub urban village, including minimum 1/3 acre of open space per 100 residents, accessible open spaces for neighborhood parks and/or pocket parks, and a community garden.

**Policy Work** to create the "Open Space Lattice," a system of open spaces and "green streets trails" as a framework for open space planning and to provide safe, aesthetic pedestrian links throughout the neighborhood.

**Policy Seek** to reclaim unneeded portions of currently used street rights-of-ways to develop open space and trail opportunities where appropriate, (e.g., major arterials redesign - see transportation goals)

# Open Space Lattice



Policy Seek opportunities within the business district to create public seating, landscaping, pocket parks and plazas that serve as community gathering places.

Recommendation: Retain the Seattle City Light substations within the planning area in City ownership, even when no longer needed for electrical distribution, for possible future park and/or plaza space and/or other public/community purpose.

Recommendation: Priorities for purchasing property is as follows: California Substation, surplus in 2001; #2: Dawson Substation, surplus in 2003; and #3: Dakota Substation, surplus in 2001.

Recommendation: Remodel interior of California Substation, on NW corner of SW Dakota Street and California Avenue SW, as a "Community Recreation and Meeting Hall."

Recommendation: Purchase the abandoned service station at Erskine Way SW and 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW and obtain the Dawson Substation, also at Erskine and 47<sup>th</sup>, for potential new park sites. Explore possibility of connecting these two parcels with open space across 47<sup>th</sup> through redesign of intersections.

Recommendation: Obtain P-patch site.

Recommendation: "Open Space Lattice" streets include, but are not limited to:

- SW Charlestown Street (including route connecting to SW Spokane St. and Beach Drive)
- SW Dakota Street
- SW Genesee Street
- SW Oregon Street
- SW Alaska Street
- SW Hudson Street
- SW Brandon Street
- 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW
- 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW
- 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW
- Fauntleroy Avenue SW
- SW Avalon Way
- 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW
- 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SW
- 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW
- 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW
- 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW
- 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW
- 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue SW
- 55<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW
- 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW
- SW Jacobsen Road
- Beach Drive SW,

Recommendation: Work with other West Seattle neighborhoods to create the "West Seattle Trek or Circuit," a pedestrian- and bicyclist-oriented circumnavigation of the West Seattle peninsula from And Beach to Lincoln Park, potentially via Beach Drive SW, Fauntleroy Way SW, SW Avalon Way, Harbor Avenue SW and And Avenue SW and including linkages to greenbelt areas within and near Westwood-Highland Park and Delridge Planning areas and the Marine View Drive corridor,

Recommendation: Create a neighborhood trails map and install effective signage to highlight the "green street" routes and "Open Space Lattice,"

Recommendation: Designate and sign specific alleys as non-motorized transportation routes compatible with continued vehicular use.

Recommendation: Support and promote the existing murals and existing self-guided tour of mural works in The Junction.

## **Maintain and Improve Existing Facilities**

An important aspect of developing and maintaining parks and open space is creating a sense of pride and ownership in the community. This is best done through volunteerism. During this planning process, members of the Parks and Open Space Committee and other community volunteers planted street trees in the neighborhood. It is through efforts like this that our community becomes a more livable place and citizens become more protective of the amenities that grace the neighborhood,

**Goal:** Improve neighborhood identity and aesthetics, including the urban forest and native habitat,

**Recommendation:** Develop gateways at north, south, east and west entries into the planning area and business district, as appropriate, with associated open space and/or landscaped areas and signage.

**Recommendation:** Promote greening and beautification of the neighborhood with local citizen participation, including planting street trees.

**Recommendation:** Enhance and add to the urban forest within existing parks and open space areas (e.g., public and private school grounds), Focus on street trees and re-vegetation along the "Open Space Lattice"

**Recommendation:** Maintain and restore native habitat and species in existing parks, open spaces, and street rights-of-way, wherever possible, such as Mee Kwa Mooks, Schmitz Parks, Camp Long, steep slopes, and other "natural" areas,

Undeveloped street rights-of-way provide opportunities for open space and trail development. Many times these rights-of-way are "claimed" and maintained by adjacent property owners as landscaping and open space. Privacy and encroachment on private lands are important considerations in designing trails for public use. In some cases, merely leaving the right-of-way in its current undeveloped condition is an open space benefit to the community,

**Goal:** Preserve and maximize opportunities for public open space and pedestrian/bicycle trails.

**Policy:** Keep undeveloped portions of street rights-of-ways and alleys in city ownership

**Policy:** Eliminate encroachment on undeveloped public street rights-of-ways and alleys,

**Policy:** Identify undeveloped street right-of-ways and alleys with clear public signage.

A critical element of the Open Space Lattice is the street system. From many aspects, the Junction is a very walk-able neighborhood. However, many arterial streets and intersections are not pedestrian friendly and inhibit pedestrian use. Improvement and enhancement of these streets is important not only from the standpoint of aesthetics, but also for safety within the Lattice network,

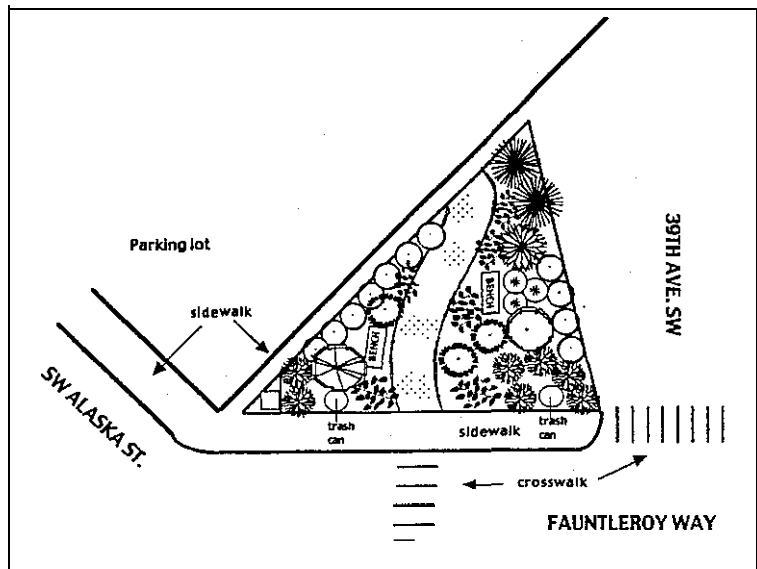
**Goal:** Provide safer and more aesthetically pleasing arterial streets through the neighborhood.

**Policy:** Improve aesthetics and pedestrian safety, and provide traffic calming as appropriate with street trees, landscape features, medians, curb bulbs, mid-block refuges and public pocket parks wherever possible.

**Policy:** Provide pedestrian walkway and bicycle lane improvements on streets proposed as making up the "Open Space Lattice,"

**Recommendation:** Focus improvements on California Avenue SW, SW Alaska Street, Fauntleroy Avenue SW, SW Avalon Way and 35th Avenue SW.

**Recommendation:** Provide bicycle lanes on SW Avalon Way to connect to the southern terminus of the Harbor Avenue bikeway at Spokane Street.



**Development** of a triangle open space at this intersection would use **unnecessary** street right-of-way for **aesthetic** and pedestrian safety improvements. This improvement is part of the Fauntleroy Gateway Key Strategy,

Drawing by MarieA. McKinsey

# Cultural Arts

West Seattle Junction is fortunate to be the home of ArtsWest, a non-profit arts organization serving all of West Seattle. In the Junction, ArtsWest has established an art gallery and is in the process of renovating the former Meredith's shop, in the heart of the Junction, into a performing arts center.

Several members of ArtWest were members of the FOJ Cultural Arts Committee. However, the objectives of the committee is to provide cultural arts opportunities both in cooperation with ArtsWest and in support of other independent cultural arts projects and programs.

At an outreach event in June, the Cultural Arts Committee sought feedback from citizens about what types of art and cultural activities they would like to see in the Junction. The following is a result of that survey:

## RESULTS OF CULTURAL ARTS QUESTIONNAIRE (48 TOTAL RESPONSES)

*Please circle the performance art you would most likely patronize in the Junction.*

. Classical Music	22
. Jazz	28
• Folk	23
. Blues	19
. Other music	06
. Visual Arts	08
. Live Theater	37
. Dance	18
. Literary Readings	14
. Classes	19
. Other performance	03

*Please circle the public art you would like to see in the Junction.*

. Outdoor Sculpture	29
. Murals/Wall Art	28
. Creative paintings/F/era/Art	18
. Decorative Benches	24
. Fountain	31

*To increase multi-cultural participation in the arts, please name some groups, cultures, or ethnic artists you'd like to see more of in the Junction.*

- . Story telling
- . Taiko drumming/diverse dance
- . Asian
- . Fashion Show
- . Italian
- . Disco
- . Native American

- *Tibetan Dance*
- *Indian Snake Charmer*
- *Musical performances from other cultures*

*How likely are you to attend the following events in the Junction? (Response to "Very Likely")*

• <i>Play</i>	39
• <i>Dance Recital</i>	09
• <i>Musical</i>	26
• <i>Comedy</i>	27
• <i>Concert</i>	33
• <i>Poetry/Author Reading</i>	10
• <i>Art Exhibit</i>	22
• <i>Youth performance</i>	09

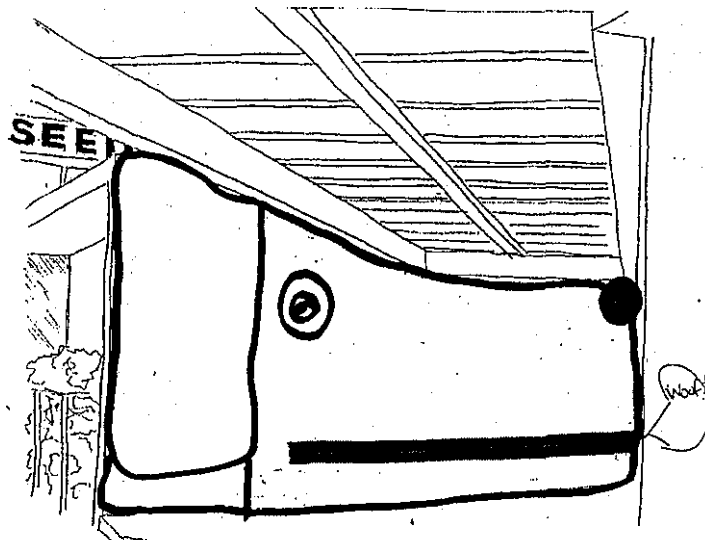
**Goal:** Support public art in the Junction through 1 % For-the-Arts and other programs,

**Policy:** Arts should be integrated into the business district to beautify the area,

**Policy:** Where new public space is created, assesses for incorporation of public art,

**Recommendation:** Install public art in the following locations:

- The vacant area at 42<sup>nd</sup> and SW Alaska
- The triangle between Feed and Seed and furniture stores on California Avenue SW
- Passageway between California Avenue SW and parking lot.
- 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW and Fauntleroy Way as entryway.
- Avalon Way from Harbor Avenue as gateway to Junction.



A Junction resident submitted this idea for the blank wall next to the Feed and Seed store on California Avenue.



**Goal:** Develop the Junction as a community that has a distinctive flavor in arts and culture, yet integrates with the overall arts and culture community in West Seattle:

**Recommendation:** Continue to work with ArtsWest to support the Playhouse,

**Recommendation:** Develop a major Community Cultural Center serving the entire Duwamish area should be a long-range goal,

**Recommendation:** Maintain the existing murals.

**Recommendation:** Investigate and promote Arts Walks in conjunction with foot-ferry.

**Recommendation:** Develop ideas on how to use lighting to define the Junction.

**Recommendation:** Conduct a study to determine the impacts of the ArtsWest Playhouse on the Junction neighborhood with a baseline study to be done immediately and another two years out.

**Recommendation:** Develop tools for multi-cultural outreach for and participation in the Arts throughout West Seattle,



Many walls in the Junction are brightened by murals.

# Human Development and Public Safety

During the course of Phase II neighborhood planning, it became evident that planning for human services and public safety has implications broader than the Junction neighborhood. Therefore, efforts of the Human Development and Public Safety Committee were focused primarily on working with other neighborhood organizations throughout West Seattle. The FOJ Human Development Committee devised a West Seattle Human Services survey. This survey was refined into the West Seattle Human Services Proposal which helped to initiate a West Seattle-wide group called the Coalition of West Seattle Human Service Providers. The FOJ committee continues to participate in this group, and will continue to do so beyond the FOJ Neighborhood Planning project.

## Human Development

**Goal:** A neighborhood that recognizes and supports the diverse human development needs and safety concerns of its changing population.

**Policy:** Encourage human services providers to work closely with neighborhood organizations in developing programs that benefit consumers and the larger community.

**Policy:** Seek to improve communication between people, organizations, and communities dealing with human development and safety issues.

**Recommendation:** Complete a West Seattle inventory, needs assessment and human development strategic plan to guide service delivery and funding over the next 20 years.

**Recommendation:** Work with other West Seattle neighborhoods and agencies to develop a Human Services Provider Information Network that would result in more knowledgeable referral information being provided to the consumer of human services.

**Recommendation:** Develop a multi-faceted set of communication/public outreach tools to better serve clients and increase knowledge of available services, Tools may include: WEB page, written flyers, non-written communications/ announcements, public service announcements.

## Public Safety

As with human services, public safety issues extend beyond neighborhood boundaries, The FOJ Human Development and Public Safety Committee have been involved with other neighborhood groups in encouraging the City to establish a police precinct in West Seattle, and will continue to work with other neighborhoods and the Seattle Police Department on public safety issues,

**Goal:** Establishment of a Police Precinct in West Seattle.

**Policy:** Work with other West Seattle neighborhood groups and the Seattle Police Department to determine the best location and desired operational and staffing features of a new West Seattle Police Precinct.

**Goal:** Improve police and safety services in the Junction neighborhood.

**Policy** Work with the Seattle Police Department to receive information about crime trends in the community and address problems as they arise.

**Policy:** Work with the Seattle Police Department on ways to improve service in the Junction neighborhood, such as bike patrols, additional beat coverage and traffic officers,

**Policy** Address physical security and safety issues in the neighborhood such as better lighting, parks security and traffic safety.

**Policy:** Provide information to the community on preventative measures and encourage personal responsibility.

**Policy:** Support local Block Watch programs,

**Recommendation:** Twice yearly, distribute a Crime Prevention Newsletter specific to the West Seattle Junction Planning area stakeholders that would teach people about Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and other concepts they can use around their home and business. The newsletter should be written by the Friends of the Junction, in cooperation with the Seattle Police Department and the West Seattle Crime Prevention Council, and should be distributed by the City.

**Recommendation:** The Seattle Police Department should develop a program of special patrols that target specific issues expressed by neighborhood residents and businesses.

**Goal:** Prioritization of public spaces in need of safety improvements such as lighting.

**Policy:** Promote the use of good environmental design to improve the safety of new open space sites, pedestrian trails and new development,

**Recommendation:** Seattle Police Department should review plans of new pocket-parks, pedestrian trails or other park development for adequacy of lighting.